WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) In consultation with State Government the Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 2614.33 crores for Major & Medium Irrigation Sector in VIII Plan.

(b) and (c) While external assistance is already provided to Government of Orissa for Upper Indravati Irrigation Project (Loan of Yen 3744 million from OECF Japan) and Upper Kolab Irrigation Project (Loan of Yen 3769 million from OECF Japan), it is also one of the participating States in World Bank aided National Water Management Project (IDA Credit of SDR 93.2 million) and Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Project (IDA Credit of SDR 96.2 million and IBRD Loan of US $ 23 million). Japanese Grant facility of Yen 100.3 million for undertaking studies for formulation of Water Resources Consolidation Project (Orissa and Haryana) has also been tied up. There is also a proposal for providing World Bank assistance to Subernarekha Irrigation Project (Orissa).

National Water Policy

1703. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a National Water Policy, if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(b) whether there is any programme for involvement of people in irrigation water management at various levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir. The salient feature of the National Water Policy are:

1. reckoning a drainage basin or sub-basin as a unit fo Planning;

2. adoption of integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to planning and formulation of projects;

3. integrated and conjunctive development of surface and ground water;

4. special attention in planning projects for benefiting disadvantaged groups of the society;

5. water transfer to needy areas based on a national perspective;

6. prioritising water use and provision of drinking water while planning multi-purpose project; and

7. integration of land and water use policies.

(b) Steps have been initiated under the Command Area Development programme towards involvement of farmers in irrigation water management below miner/outlet level. Detailed guidelines of farmers participation were framed and circulated to the states in 1987 to initiate, on pilot basis, formulation of such association atleast on one minor.

Controlling the Brahmaputra Tributories

1704. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes contemplated and approved by Government to tame and control the Brahmaputra and its tributories in Assam;

(b) whether Government are aware that the river bed of Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh is fast raising;

(c) if so, whether any scheme has been taken by Government to dig out the river bed of Brahmaputra in order to increase the water load capacity of Brahmaputra; and

(d) if answer to part (c) above be the affirmative the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Master Plans for managing floods in Brahmaputra river have been prepared. Short-term and long-term measures have been identified. During the last three years, 22 flood management schemes have been approved for implementation. Another 24 flood manangement schemes have been prepared. These are being modified in view of the observations of appraising agencies.